(c) if so, what is the response of the Central Government to the request?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) There are 9 Testing Laboratories for detecting adulteration of petroleum products in Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Government has not received any request from Government of Gujarat for increasing the number of facilities for detecting adulteration of petroleum products in Gujarat.

Establishment of mobile octane testing centre in Gujarat

5072. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested financial assistance for establishment of stationery as well as mobile octane testing centres in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the request has been accepted by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Government has not received any request from Government of Gujarat for financial assistance for establishment of stationery as well as mobile octane testing centres in Gujarat.

Outcome of meeting on emission norms

5073. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to specify any particular fuel or vehicle type to check pollution;

(b) if so, whether they have also decided that it will only lay down vehicular emission norms and matching fuel specifications;

(c) whether this was decided at a meeting convened by him and was attended by the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry has already submitted a comprehensive proposal in this regard to the Cabinet for approval;

(e) if so, whether this has been approved; and

(f) by when the Ministry is likely to issue instructions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The Government have constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to recommend an Auto Fuel Policy, for the country. The Expert Committee has made, *inter-alia*, the following recommendations in its Interim Report:—

* The recommended Auto Fuel Policy is based on targeted vehicular emission standards for various categories of vehicles, allowing use of different technologies and fuels, which can meet the emission standards. In the developed world and elsewhere, vehicular emission standards and auto fuel quality necessary to meet the standards alone are prescribed, giving choice to the public, manufacturers, owners and operators of motor vehicles to choose the vehicle type and the fuel. The Committee recommends that the same policy be adopted for India.

* The Government should decide only the vehicular emission standards and the corresponding fuel specifications without specifying vehicle technology and the type of fuel.

The recommendations of the Committee have been accepted by the Government on 8.1.2002

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of above.

Crude oil production by Russia

5074. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia is set to overtake Saudi Arabia in crude production;

(b) whether this strategic advantage to be wrested by Russia will be beneficial to consuming economies like India and China and whether India has never been comfortable with the OPEC cartel controlled by Saudi Arabia; and

(c) whether Indian refineries do not have the technical capacity to process heavy Russian crude and if so, in what manner India gains from Russia's abundance in crude oil?